

#25 Request  
for  
Recommendation  
SXB  
3/3/03

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.116  
EXPEDITED PROCEDURE  
EXAMINING GROUP 3676

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Pekka MIELONEN et al

Art Unit: 3676

Application No: 09/405,436

Examiner:  
Lloyd A. Gall

Filed: September 23, 1999

For: CYLINDER LOCK-KEY-COMBINATION

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GROUP 3600

REPLY TO THE OFFICE ACTION MAILED 12/17/2002

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Box AF  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Further examination and consideration of this application are requested in view of the following Remarks.

REMARKS

The examiner has repeated and made final the requirement for restriction made in the Office Action mailed September 6, 2002. The examiner has previously acted on the merits of claims 1-12, 14-20 and 22-27 (see the Office Action mailed March 12, 2002). In order to avoid the inconvenience and delay of a petition against the requirement for restriction, applicant requests that the examiner should continue to treat the claims to the key blank and the key as being drawn to the same invention as the claims to the lock and key combination.

The examiner has asserted that Group I and either Group II or Group III are related as combination and subcombination, and that inventions in this relationship are distinct if it can be shown (1) that the combination as claimed does not require the particulars of the subcombination as claimed for patentability, and (2) that the subcombination has utility by itself or in other combinations. Both requirements must be met.

## Smith-Hill and Bedell, P.C.

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### FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

To: Lloyd A. Gall  
Art Unit 3676

From: John Smith-Hill

Firm: US PATENT AND  
TRADEMARK OFFICE

Date: February 28, 2003

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Our ref: AWEK 1912

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